

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

April 20, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, James Little, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

Commissioner Willie George Lee entered the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felicia Lee, Angela Machen, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Jenna Linn Rice

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Public Hearing – Proposed Administrative Budget of 2021/2022. The floor was open to Public Comments. As there were no public comments the floor was closed to public comments. Parker said that the bottom line remains the same as the current year. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Babin to adopt the Administrative Budget of 2021/2022, as presented.
5. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the March 2021 regular meeting minutes.
6. Financial Statement Report
Bailey presented to the Board the March 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to approve the March 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
7. Executive Director Report
 - Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:
 - Rietschier presented the LA DOTD Report: Real Estate Status-66 properties Acquired, 16 in negotiations, 2 pending appraisals, Project Management. Bridges: LA Hwy. 964, 100% design completed, LA Hwy 67, 100 % design completed and LA Hwy 19, 90% design completed. Utility Relocation Status: See handout.
 - ARBC Commissioner Lee entered the meeting at this time, 5:19 p.m.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Bailey to extend the contract with Quantum Spatial an additional \$25,000. Rietschier is in process of securing a host and website for the Inundation Map.
 - ARBC Hunting Lease(s): On April 19, 2021, ARBC notified all hunting lessees that the hunting leases will be canceled due to the construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal per USACE request.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Lee to return to holding ARBC meetings at the ARBC office beginning in June 2021 if it meets with all state requirements as set forth by Governor Edwards regarding Covid-19.
 - Rietschier reported that he was recently interviewed with the City of Baker and the interview can be found on the City of Baker's website and YouTube.

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- Rietschier will write a letter on behalf of ARBC to Representative Hodges regarding HB 544, Scenic Rivers Act extension.
8. ARBC Legal Counsel: Resolution 1155 – Bankston & Associates Contract Renewal. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve said Resolution and Contract. This includes an increase in fees as prescribed by the Attorney General and is for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. For the record, Bankston has not requested an increase in fees since 2014.
 9. Old Business: None
 10. New Business: None
 11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson second by St. Pierre to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President
Date: 5/18/21

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary